

Merced, California and were later moved to the camp at Amache, Colorado.

After Mr. Murakami graduated from high school, he joined the Army and served two years in Germany. After he was discharged, Mr. Murakami returned to his hometown of Santa Rosa, where he raised a family with his wife of 59 years, Margarete, and where he lived until his death in 2012.

Mr. Murakami joined the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in the early 1950s and quickly rose through the ranks of the organization. He was the president of the local JACL chapter, the first governor of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, as well as the national vice president of the organization from 1972–1975 before becoming the national president from 1976–1978.

During his tenure with the JACL, Mr. Murakami worked tirelessly on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finally seeing it passed and signed into law by President Reagan in 1988. The Act required a Presidential apology and a symbolic payment to the surviving internees who were subjected to forced relocation.

In addition to his work with the JACL, Mr. Murakami was also a member of the Santa Rosa East Rotary for more than 50 years as well as a permanent member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was a regular financial supporter of the Hannah Boys Center, the Sonoma County Museum, and his local fire department.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Murakami was forced to endure dreadful circumstances that most of us have never, nor will ever, experience. In the face of this adversity, Mr. Murakami not only served his country in the Armed Forces when called upon but also worked tirelessly to right the injustice he experienced through his advocacy for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Mr. Murakami was a valuable, contributing member of his community, both locally and nationally. It is therefore appropriate that, on this 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, we honor and remember him today for his many contributions.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIA LUYANDA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Maria Luyanda for her leadership within the Central Florida Hispanic Community.

Maria Luyanda was born in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. She attended college at Missouri University and completed courses in accounting at Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She began her career as a teller at Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, where she was recognized for her professionalism and later became assistant manager.

In 1998, Maria was hired by American Airlines Credit Union as manager of the San Juan, Puerto Rico office. During her time at American Airlines, Maria established a loan system to benefit the employees of the Carib-

bean islands and was soon appointed Regional Director. She was later promoted to Executive Director and became part of the World Association of Credit Unions, as operational adviser. In this position, she had the opportunity to help smaller credit unions organize their operational capabilities and to experience financial growth.

Maria moved to Orlando, Florida in 1998 and served as the assistant Vice President of Banco Popular. In 2004, she started Luyanda Insurance with her son Jose, a company dedicated to looking for innovative products to satisfy the local market. Maria was also the treasurer and vice president of the Hispanic American Professional and Business Women Association and on the Board of the Hispanic Youth Group of Deltona. Maria currently serves as the President of the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce and is on the Advisory Board for Polytechnic University's Orlando Campus.

I am happy to honor Maria Luyanda, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her continued leadership within the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF ZORAIDA ANDINO RIOS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the public service of Zoraida Andino Rios. Zoraida was born in East Chicago, Indiana. Her passion for social justice started when she was studying at Saint Joseph's College where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Education. As a student, she was the founder of an organization called "Palante" and was the assistant director of a college TV program, "Know Your Community," which informs Latino students about issues affecting the Hispanic community. She is the proud mother of her two children, Carolina Raquel and Gilberto Antonio. Her pride and joy is her granddaughter Analiz Diana Balderas.

In 1979, Zoraida moved to Puerto Rico and worked for several community services companies. In 1986, she returned to Indiana and began advocating for the rights of the Puerto Rican and Latino community. She served as President of Madre Atrevete Muevete Ahora (MAMA) and Secretary of the Latino Historical Society. She was also active with the Northwest Indiana Voter Registration and Education Foundation, United Citizens Organization, and United Farm Workers. Zoraida was the co-founder and President of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women and received their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000. She also received the Roberto Clemente Community Service Award from the Northwest Indiana Coordinating Counsel.

After moving to Florida with her family, Zoraida became the founder and President of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women's local chapter in Orlando. She is also a member of the Asociación Borinqueña and La Casa de Puerto Rico. In 2008, she got involved with various social justice groups and served as Vice President for Frente Unido 436 and Vice President of the National Council of Puerto Rican Rights. She is also involved with the Black, Latino, Puerto Rican Alliance for Justice and is founder and co-director of the Orlando chapter of the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights. She is currently working on her project "Boricua," a tool to unite the worldwide Puerto Rican community.

I am happy to honor Zoraida Andino Rios, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her public service to the Hispanic community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MELISSA MCGUIRE- MANIAU

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize an amazing woman in my community, Melissa McGuire-Maniau.

Melissa McGuire-Maniau was born in Puerto Rico, raised in Orlando and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. For the last eight years Melissa has been proudly married to her husband, a native of Mexico. Together they have three girls.

Melissa has been at the forefront of the fight for comprehensive immigration reform and has helped build a movement in Central Florida for the rights of immigrants. Melissa's journey in the immigrant rights movement started in 2005 when she began to study her husband's immigration case. After living in the United States for over twenty years, her husband was still an undocumented immigrant facing deportation. Seeking legal status and citizenship for her husband was nearly impossible.

On October 5, 2011, Melissa's husband was taken from their home and sent to a private immigrant detention center in South Florida. Having worked as a volunteer with several immigrant rights organizations, Melissa used her experience to fight back. Thanks to the support and collaborative efforts of the community, Melissa's husband was eventually released. Her husband became a legal permanent resident in April 2013.

Over the last several years, Melissa and her family have volunteered with the National Farm Worker Ministry. Melissa is now the Immigration Chair of the Youth and Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry, and serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Florida Immigrant Coalition. Melissa is currently in the Pre-Law Program at Rollins College working towards becoming an immigration attorney in order to continue the fight for justice for all immigrant families.

I am happy to honor Melissa McGuire-Maniau, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her service to our country and her community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VANESSA HALL FERREIRA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the courage and commitment of Vanessa Hall Ferreira. Vanessa was born and grew up as the youngest of six in Bridgeport, Connecticut. As a young child, Vanessa grew up in a housing project with her single mother, 4 sisters, and brother. Vanessa was the first in her family to graduate high school. She married her high school sweetheart Alfredo Ferreira in 1971 with whom she has two daughters and three grandsons.

Vanessa began her bakery career in 1983. She got a full time job in the bakery of a grocery store, which she really enjoyed. She moved to another grocery store chain where there were good worker protections and was able to earn a pension and get 100% vested. In 1995, she decided to move the family to Florida.

In 1998, Vanessa got a job at Walmart as a cake decorator. It was a great place to work even though the pay was not much. When she asked for a 75 cent raise, Walmart denied her, saying it was too much. She left to work at a competitor grocery store where she received training, great benefits, and higher wages.

When the store went out of business, Venessa had no choice but to go back to work at Walmart in 2005. Vanessa and other associates had concerns about scheduling and management's attitude toward the workers. Eventually, the store began to hire temporary workers instead of giving full time work to the current employees.

In 2009, Vanessa discovered the Organization United for Respect at Walmart or OUR Walmart. She became an "Our Walmart" member online but kept her membership private. In 2012, Vanessa went on strike at her store during the week of Black Friday. Vanessa returned back to work after going on strike with a new sense of dignity.

Vanessa became one of the main leaders for Our Walmart in Central Florida. In April 2013, Vanessa was fired from her position with Walmart in retaliation for her activism. She continues to advocate for workers' rights by sharing her own experiences.

I am happy to honor Vanessa Hall Ferreira, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her courage and commitment to workers' rights.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MARCOS VILAR

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the career of Marcos Vilar. Mr. Vilar was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He moved to the United States at the age of 14 and has since lived in New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Washington, DC, Chicago, Tampa, and Orlando. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Maryland and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Mr. Vilar worked as a teacher in Chicago, where he also was active in community work. During his tenure at Roberto Community Academy he was best known for working with at risk youth and developing arts and cultural programming into after school activities. He was also advisor for the Student Government body and a leader of the local reform movement at the school.

Mr. Vilar moved to Washington, DC in January of 2002, and there held several national leadership positions including National Field Director for the Que Nada Nos Detenga, voter registration campaign of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, Executive Director for America's Families United, National Political Director for SEIU, and National Field Director for Mi Familia Vota Education Fund.

Mr. Vilar's work as Executive Director for America's Families United was fundamental to the development of Catalyst, which has become the standard voter file database used by progressive organizations. He was also a founding member of the Catalyst Board of Managers.

As Political Director of SEIU, Mr. Vilar focused on improving member databases and was responsible for aggressively growing the COPE Fund, SEIU's Political Action Committee (PAC). During his two year tenure, the PAC doubled its annual income and became the largest PAC in the country.

As National Field Director for Mi Familia Vota Education Fund, Mr. Vilar led efforts to engage Latinos in the 2012 election cycle. He was instrumental in the development and success of the National Latino Civic Engagement Table, a coalition of national organizations working together to increase Latino civic participation in key states. In addition he oversaw the opening of Mi Familia Vota Education Fund operations in Texas and Florida in 2011 and 2012.

Vilar moved to Florida in 2012 and served as statewide coordinator for the Alliance for Citizenship, a national immigration reform campaign. He is now working as Statewide Field Director for Florida New Majority.

I am happy to honor Marcos Vilar, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his many accomplishments and contributions to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF LUIS R. PASTRANA SILVA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Luis R. Pastrana Silva for his service to our country and to the Hispanic community in Central Florida.

Mr. Pastrana was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. He holds a B.B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), Rio Piedras Campus, an M.B.A. from Farleigh Dickinson University, and a J.D. from the UPR School of Law. Mr. Pastrana honorably served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army for 20 years. After his retirement from the Army in 1978, Mr. Pastrana held several positions within the government of Puerto Rico, promoting business and economic development.

In 2001, he moved to Orlando to serve as the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration's Regional Director for Southern States. Since 2003, he has served as Distinguished Professor at the Ana G. Mendez University System in Orlando, FL. He is also a member of the Puerto Rico Bar, the American Bar Association, and the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Mr. Pastrana has been a leader in the Puerto Rican community in Central Florida and a champion for business development. He has published two autobiographies and one research book on the U.S. Constitution. He is happily married to Mareitssa Griggs, a college professor, and together they have five children and five grandchildren.

I am happy to honor Luis R. Pastrana Silva, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to our country and to the Hispanic community.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LOVE OF JUANITA GARCÍA PERAZA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the life and legacy of Juanita García Peraza, founder of the Congregación Mita Church.

Juanita García Peraza was born on June 24, 1897, in Hatillo, Puerto Rico. She came from a distinguished family, and was known for her moral and spiritual values, her love for the poor, and her sensitivity toward the pain of others. In the late 1930's, when Puerto Rico and the U.S. were experiencing a great economic crisis, Juanita became ill and was bed-ridden with gastroenteritis. While confined with the illness, Juanita promised the Lord that if He healed her, she would serve Him for the rest of her days. She was healed. She then abandoned her social position and fortune, and traveled the countryside visiting the poor and the needy to preach the good news.

In 1940, in the town of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, Juanita founded the Congregación Mita Church with a message of love, freedom, and unity. In 1947, the Church was established in the capital city of San Juan, in the Hato Rey sector. She performed missionary work, visiting prisons and hospitals and helping reform many alcoholics and drug addicts. In addition to her spiritual work, Juanita carried out extraordinary social work in the community. She

developed credit unions and corporations that provide employment and economic opportunities to members of the church. She established Bible schools, known as the "Consejero," to instruct, counsel, and guide children in their integral development. She founded music academies to benefit children and adolescents by encouraging their development in the arts. Also, she established the Ministry of Guards to watch over the church's properties and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Likewise, Juanita established the Ministry of Preachers and Deacons who perform social work wherever the congregation is established. She envisioned the creation of a shelter for the elderly and a school for the children and youth of the community, both of which became a reality a few years after she passed away. Under her leadership, her work spread to New York, Chicago, and Washington, DC, as well as Santo Domingo and Santiago de los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic.

Juanita initiated a new era for women. At a time when women were not allowed to officiate in church and faced discrimination, she removed barriers and cleared the way for women to express themselves openly. Juanita allowed women equal participation in the church, including leadership roles. Despite being assailed, slandered, and misinterpreted, she pushed ahead bravely, leaving behind a legacy of love in the hearts of those who knew her.

In 1978, the Universidad Hispano Americana recognized Juanita for her extraordinary work, and awarded her the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Management Honoris Causae. A public elementary school in one of the communities where she served was also named in her honor.

I am happy to honor Juanita García Peraza, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for all her hard work, courage, and dedication.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,747,411,584,091.53. We've added \$6,120,534,535,178.45 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING CECILIA CASSIDY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding contributions of Cecilia Cassidy and to commemorate her retirement after 21 years of service to the community of Rosslyn.

As executive director of Rosslyn Renaissance, Ms. Cassidy was crucial in growing the